9-29-10

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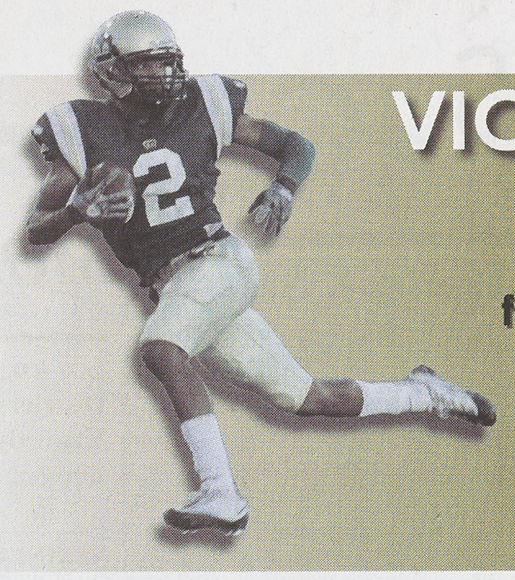
los angeles valley college's

VALLEY STAR

the independent student newspaper



VICTORY AT HOME

Valley College football defeated the San Diego Mesa Olympians 28-20, Saturday.

»6

lavalleystar.com | September 29 2010 | Volume 73 Issue 3

FINANCIAL AID IS HERE TO HELP

A quick overview of the FAFSA and other financial aid sources.

JAVIERA INFANTE
STAFF WRITER

Many students take upon themselves the painstaking responsibility of paying for college. There are several sources of help students can receive from the state and federal government, yet, many students, especially college freshmen, don't know what's available to alleviate the financial burden.

"This is my first year here and right now I'm paying for college," said Valley Student Alfonso Villagra. "I'm not sure about what's out there as far as financial aid."

According to Valley's financial aid Web page, in order to be eligible for federal or state financial aid, students must show proof of U.S. citizenship, have a valid social security number and be enrolled with a goal of either obtaining an AA or AS degree or transferring.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid, also known as FAFSA, is a form used to determine the amount of money a family is expected to contribute to the price of attending a postsecondary institution. The results of the FAFSA are used in determining student grants, work study, and loan amounts.

According to the FAFSA Web page, www.fafsa.ed.gov, some of the documents you need for the FAFSA are: a driver license or valid form of ID, income tax returns, bank statements, and investment records. The FAFSA must be accurately filled out. Any mistakes may put you at risk to be discarded from the analysis process. It is strongly suggested that applicants apply early, beginning January 1 of every year. The deadline for submitting your 2010-2011 FAFSA online is before midnight on June 30, 2011, but state applications may be submitted earlier depending on the state.

After the FAFSA is processed and accepted the applicants chances of getting financial help broaden immediately. Completing the FAFSA is like getting a general entrance ticket to a county fair; there are limitless chances of winning a prize once you're inside.

For example, one popular form of financial aid that students receive from the state government is the Board of Governors Fee Waiver Program. The BOG waiver is offered by California community colleges. Under this program, enrollment fees are waived for students who qualify. Applicants do not have to be enrolled in a specific number of units or courses to receive the waiver. The applicant is eligible to apply for a waiver if they are a California resident, enrolled in at least 1 unit, and meet other eligibility criteria such as staying in good academic standing and demonstrate financial need. By completing the FAFSA the applicant will automatically be considered for this program. Students can apply for this waiver any time during the semester as long as they are still enrolled.

Just like the BOG waiver, an approved FAFSA form determines

|See **FINANCIAL AID**, Page 2|

RICARDO VARELA | VALLEY STAR

STOP THE PREJUDICE - Dr. Judy Chaisson addresses prejudice and intolerance against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people Tuesday at the Diversity Awareness Assembly in Monarch Hall.

DIVERSITY AWARENESS STARTS DISCUSSION

Diversity awareness assembly: The Invisible Minority was held yesterday in Monarch Hall.

JON SEELEY
NEWS EDITOR

Gay and lesbian advocate, Dr. Judy Chiasson was the keynote speaker before a crowd of 300 students yesterday at a diversity awareness assembly in Monarch Hall that addressed homophobia.

"Our main goal is to start a discussion," said Chiasson. "We want to get people to think about and question prejudice."

Chiasson, a member of the gay community, works for Los Angeles Unified School District and is the founder of GLIDE (Gays and Lesbians Initiating Dialogue for Equality). She conducts more than 250 workshops per year about sexual orientation and gender identity – her group attempts to present factual information and share personal stories to eliminate homophobia from the general public, according to www.socal-glide.org

"We see an improvement in the attitudes of 90 percent of the students regarding prejudices towards [the gay community]," she continued. "LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning) people are found in every class, race, community, and religion throughout the entire world… LGBTQ represent 10 percent of the world population - they are the invisible minority."

Chiasson attempted to demonstrate through statistical data that males in American society are not taught how to deal with unwanted sexual advances from members of the same sex.

Administration of justice professor Nicholas Wade brought his class to the assembly.

"This kind of subject matter is relatable to everyone entering the workforce," said Wade. "Tolerance and a better understanding of diversity is especially important to people entering law enforcement."

In 2008, there were 748 hate crimes in Los Angeles County. Gay males are members of the second highest group of people to be the victims of hate crimes; only black males were more victimized.

She said that violence towards gay men tends to involve multiple male assailants, and high school students perpetrated 30 percent of violent hate crimes.

"Groups of boys and men have gone cruising down to West Hollywood and beat up anyone they deem as a homosexual," said Chiasson. "It's not like they are carding anyone either – like they don't say, 'Hey are you gay? No. Ok then can you tell us where we can find one?'- they just see someone who might be gay and attack."

Between 85 and 96 percent of violent crimes are carried out by men. Men are expected to never show emotion, and violence is seen as an acceptable "masculine" reaction to advances from the same sex.

"There tends to be an element of 'overkill' when violence is committed towards gay men," said Chiasson. "We're seeing crimes where the (homosexual) victims have 50 stab wounds, for doing something as minor as touching the knee of another man. Women are equipped with the proper reaction to unwanted sexual advances – we brush the hand off of our knee and say 'no.'"

She told the story of middle school student, Brandon, who carried a gun to school and murdered his homosexual classmate, Larry. Larry had given Brandon a Valentine's Day card, which had resulted in Brandon becoming the target of bullying from his friends.

"Larry had the school and the law on his side; he was legally allowed to express himself," said Chiasson. "Brandon didn't have the tools to deal with unwanted advances from a member of the same sex."

She said about 50 percent of homeless teenagers in Los Angeles have wound up living on the streets because their own family has rejected them for being homosexual.

Chiasson said, "We can't stop prejudice, but we can change the value placed on prejudice by building a community with services, advocates, and education… one day we can have faces not labels."

TEXTING AND DRIVING: A HARD HABIT TO BREAK

Eighteen months into the new law, more people are texting behind the wheel. Officials say stronger enforcement is needed.

STEPHANIE COLMAN
STAFF WRITER

California's January 2009 ban on texting and driving may have reduced the risky behavior in the short-term, but a recent Automobile Club of Southern California study shows that incidents of behind-the-wheel texting are back on the rise. Study officials say enforcement issues are to blame.

Prior to the law, results of three independent Auto Club surveys revealed that approximately 1.4 percent of observed motorists were texting at any given time. Six months into the ban, numbers dropped to .5 percent, a 70 percent decrease. However, a follow-up survey conducted in March-April 2010 showed that the number of behind-the-wheel texters rose to 1.1 percent—nearly double earlier findings—but below pre-law levels.

"The rise in texting indicates that the growth of texting overall has outpaced current law enforcement efforts," Auto Club Government Affairs Manager Steve Finnegan said. "Stronger penalties, more driver awareness and education and heightened law enforcement are needed to significantly reduce one of the most dangerous activities a driver can do while on the road."

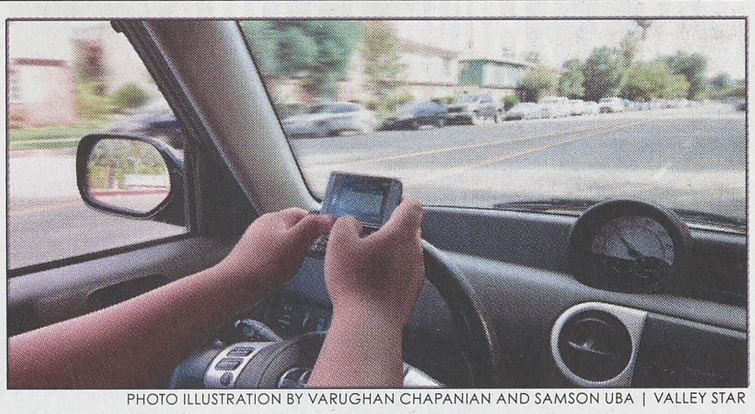


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY VARUGHAN CHAPANIAN AND SAMSON UBA | VALLEY STAR

The National Safety Council estimates that, nationwide, texting while driving is responsible for more than 200,000 collisions annually.

Those violating the texting while driving law can be difficult to spot because motorists typically hold devices in their laps. Since the ban, California Highway Patrol reports issuing an average of 200 texting citations per month compared to 12,500 citations for visible handheld cell phone use.

Currently those caught texting and driving face fines and court penalties totaling $141 for the first offense and $255 for the second offense. No point penalties are placed on the motorist's driving record.

A recent bill, SB 1475, supported by Auto Club, would have increased penalties and added a

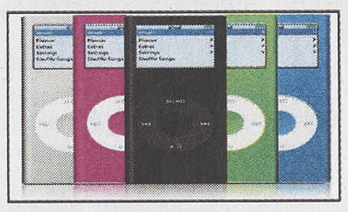
|See **TEXT**, Page 2|

BREAKING NEWS

Notice of Closed Offices

The Admissions and Records Office along with the Financial Aid Office will be closed Sept. 27-Oct. 8. due to construction

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE



Playlist

Come see some of the Valley staff's favorite tunes.

ONLINE SLIDESHOW

Photos of the Week: Food Reviews

These features and more can be found in full @ www.lavalleystar.com

THE LOW DOWN....

THE HEAT IS ON IN LA

Los Angeles residents face a heat wave head on.

CRISTINA SERRATO

Police, fire and emergency personnel are on their toes during the record-breaking heat wave that has struck Los Angeles.

"There's been a lot of heat-related incidences across Los Angeles recently with other fire stations, but we have been lucky that we haven't had any here. Most of the incidences are elderly people because of dehydration," said Carlos Avina, captain of Fire Station 102 in Valley Glen.

Angelenos are not strangers to hot weather, but the two-day, 113-degree weather has caused its share of incidences in Los Angeles.

The Los Angeles Police department has only reported one case of possible heat-related death in the last two days. The body of 56-year-old Hollywood film director Sally Menke was found Tuesday on a trail near Griffith Park after concerned friends called authorities when Menke did not return from her morning

|See **COLUMN**, Page 2|

THE VALLEY STAR INFO & STAFF

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MOST EXPENSIVE SCHOOL IN THE COUNTRY

Los Angeles Unified School District opens Robert F. Kennedy School for $578 million.

NARINE PETROSYAN
STAFF WRITER

Los Angeles Unified School District has managed to open the most expensive school in the country for $578 million, despite recent budget cuts leading to jobless teachers and uncomfortable school circumstances.

It is built in place of the Ambassador Hotel located in downtown LA, where its namesake Robert Kennedy was assassinated in 1968. The 23-acre complex will consist of grades K-12, housing 4,200 students.

"The poorest children in this school system, the most congested area in this school system, the most diverse in this school system are going to have one of the most beautiful learning environments to engage," Ramon Cortines, superintendent of the Los Angeles Unified School District, told NBC News.

The campus consists of an auditorium modeled after the famous Coconut Grove Nightclub, state-of-the-art swimming pool, fine art murals, a memorial for Kennedy, and much more. The ballroom in which Kennedy received the democratic presidential nomination shortly before being assassinated is now the library.

However, not everyone is enthusiastic about the new establishment. The district has had a $640 million budget gap and had to lay off 3,000 teachers in the last two years, so the question arises: Where is this money coming from? The answer is of course, where all other money comes from—taxpayers.

Other million-dollar-price-tag schools have also opened recently, Edward R. Roybal Learning Center opened in 2008 ($377M), and Visual and Performing Arts High School in 2009 ($232M), according to www.Syracuse.com. Los Angeles officials say these new schools were planned before the economic crisis struck and are founded by voter-approved bonds that do not impact the educational budget.

"New buildings are nice, but when they're run by the same people who've given us a 50 percent dropout rate, they're a big waste of taxpayer money," Ben Austin, executive director of Parent Revolution and California Board of Education member, told the Associated Press. "Parents aren't fooled."

FINANCIAL AID

Continued from page 1

many grants and other sources of financial aid.

For those students who do not meet any of the primary criteria or are not eligible for federal and state financial aid, there is the option of finding scholarships that appeal to your needs. The Foundation Office is a resourceful place to find different categories of scholarships depending on your major and/or academic interests. These are posted every spring semester at the Foundation Office. Former Valley students fund some of these scholarships.

You can find more info at Valley's Financial Aid Office currently located between the Campus Center and North Gym. Visit them at www.lavc.edu/financialaid, e-mail them at financialaid@lavc.edu, or call them at (818) 947-2412. Beware that Valley's Financial Aid Office is going to be closed from September 27 to October 8 and will re-open in the new Student Services building on October 11.

COLUMN

Continued from page 1

walk. Menke's body was found in Beachwood Canyon with her Labrador retriever still by her side.

"It's important to stay well hydrated, sip on water all day, 'cause dehydration can sneak up on you. Try to stay out of the sun or use a hat or umbrella to block the heat. And of course, as you know, don't leave your kids in the car," said Dr. Lee, general practitioner. "And keep cool if you can."

Desperate to get cool, Angelenos used the highest-recorded amounts of electricity ever, according to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Both the LADWP and Edison reported outages across the board for thousands of customers. As of 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, there were still over 11,000 customers without power, most in the Westchester and Hollywood areas.

The power outages and surges are likely to blame for recent damage to a downtown Los Angeles medical building where a DWP vault, located in the basement, exploded early Tuesday morning. The explosion resulted in extensive damage to the 15-story building, which had several glass windows and doors that were shattered.

"It was so hot I felt like crap. I have never sweat so much," said Valley student Robyn Brown.

Pigs roll in the mud when they're over heated, dogs sweat through their mouth but luckily most of us Homo-sapiens have good 'ol A/C, but Angelenos beware: the peak hours for high electricity charges are during the day. If you survive the heat wave, the shock of your electricity bill just might kill you.

TEXTING

Continued from page 1

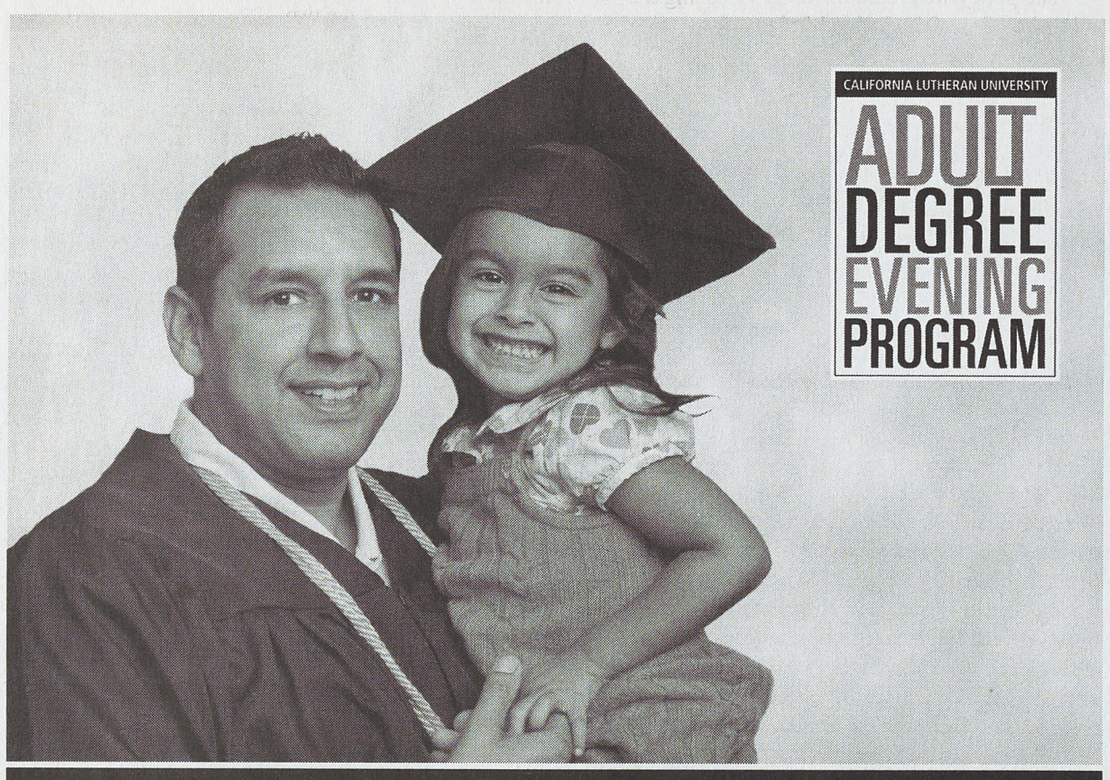
point to driving records, but was defeated by the legislature.

"Studies have established that imposing points on driving records is an effective deterrent to hazardous driving," said Steven Bloch, Auto Club's senior researcher.

Valley College student, Brenda (last name withheld), admits to occasionally texting while on the road, but keeps an eye out for police when doing so. Fellow student Blake (last name also withheld), recognizes the dangers of texting while driving, acknowledging that as a motorcyclist, it's physically impossible.

"I can't even hold a beverage while I drive," he said. "If I didn't ride a bike and it was a dire emergency, I might text while on the road. I'd like to think I'd pull over first," he added.

According to the wireless industry trade association, CTIA, Americans sent and received nearly 5 billion text messages per day in 2009. As cell phone technologies advance, U.S. consumers are expected to purchase 30 percent more smart phones in 2010.



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UNWANTED, DISCARDED, AND DEAD

Recent attempts to curb animal overpopulation are a great start, but they aren't going far enough.

KELLY DAVIS
OPINION EDITOR

"I think about a sweet little black lab who stayed up for adoption for two months … She looked at me with her big, brown, trusting eyes, gave me her paw when I asked for it, and licked my face while I injected her with euthanasia solution."

The above confession of a euthanasia technician on an animal advocacy blog shows how widespread the devastating effects of animal overpopulation can be. While the overpopulation of unwanted animals is clearly a problem that needs to be addressed, another problem that should be addressed is how we irresponsibly address the problem of unwanted animals.

The Humane Society of the United States estimates that of the 6 to 8 million dogs and cats brought to shelters each year, about 50 percent of them are euthanized. The state of California alone spends $250,000 a year euthanizing 500,000 animals.

According to a study conducted by Charlie Reeve, Ph.D. of Purdue University and Steven Rogelberg, Ph.D. of Bowling Green State University, "The influence that euthanasia-related stress holds on animal shelter employees can jeopardize their well-being on and off the job."

Los Angeles is trying to address the issue of unwanted animals another way. At two recent town hall meetings, city council members discussed with residents the possibility of raising the legal limit of dogs and/or cats that any one residence can own from three to five of each.

This would allow those who do want these "unwanted animals" the opportunity to legally rescue them from euthanasia. Advocates of the plan also point out that increasing the legal limit would financially benefit the city when the residents register and license their additional pets, which is a requirement in Los Angeles.

Opponents argue that raising the limit of pets per home would encourage hoarding and could actually result in a higher demand for pets, thus increasing the problem of animal overpopulation.

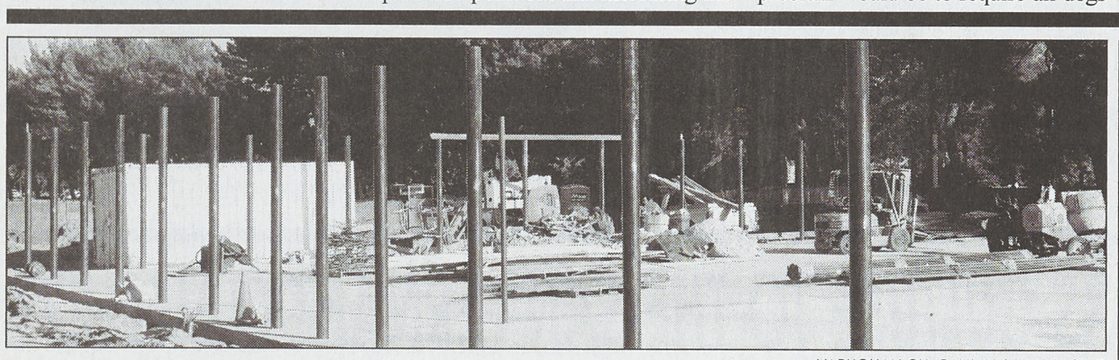
However, according to a Daily News article, cities such as San Diego, which has a limit of six dogs per home and no cat restrictions and Santa Monica, which has no restrictions, have experienced no such problems.

The state of California is also looking to address animal overpopulation on a larger scale. Senate Majority Leader Dean Florez' SB250, The Pet Responsibility Act, seeks to curb the overpopulation problem by requiring that all stray dogs be spayed or neutered as well as promoting dog licensing.

An even better solution to the problem would be to require all dogs and cats be spayed or neutered, as well as completely banning puppy mills and backyard breeding, and imposing harsh penalties for those in violation. Legitimate dog breeders should not only be required to have a special permit to have unaltered animals for breeding, but be limited in the number of litters they can procure in any given amount of time. They should also be required to have a license to operate, report all births and sales of animal offspring and pay a hefty business/breeding tax.

It's time we stop being so irresponsible and eliminating what becomes an inconvenience or nuisance to us. We need to address this issue as educated, compassionate members of the universe.

KELLY DAVIS | VALLEY STAR
RESCUED - Dumped in the desert, two Aussie pups found a loving home.



VARUGHAN CHAPANIAN | VALLEY STAR
UNDER CONSTRUCTION - State-of-the-art tennis courts are being built where Lot G used to provide student parking.

LET THEM EAT CAKE

The student parking situation at Valley College has taken a back seat to athletic development.

JESSICA ZEPEDA
STAFF WRITER

At the beginning of this school year, students had to come at least an hour early to play musical chairs in the parking lot, circling the same area over and over until somebody pulled out, hoping they were the lucky one nearest that spot.

Lets face it, there are a lot of students at Valley College and just not enough parking spaces. Contributing to the problem is the closing of more than half of Lot G. Many students are outraged that Lot G has been repossessed to build tennis courts, leaving them with limited parking options.

Well, as the saying goes, "Don't judge a book by its cover." The bigger picture is that the building of the tennis courts on Lot G might actually benefit the parking situation in the long run.

The reality is that the tennis courts are being built and paid for by Harvard Westlake, a private school located in Studio City, which has a ground lease with the district for 40 years. The soon to be state of the art tennis courts cost Valley nothing, and we will get to use the tennis courts for our own needs. The old tennis courts will be torn down for renovation purposes.

According to Tom Jacobsmeyer, vice president of administrative services, Valley hopes to complete all renovations within three years. Renovations include having all the athletics fields and center in one area. The current softball field on Ethel Avenue will be taken out and the space will be used to build a five-story parking structure that will have between 9,000 to 12,000 spaces. The parking lot currently known as Lot D near Oxnard Street and Ethel Avenue will also be renovated and renamed to Lot C, and will include photovoltaic panels so that students can park under covered spaces.

All of this construction can seem quite frustrating as it is putting a damper on an already difficult parking situation at Valley; however it is for the best. It is time everyone stop complaining, suck it up for now and make the best of the current situation.

And by the way, there is always parking to be found, but most students are too lazy to walk the extra distance from Lot D or the back lot off Coldwater Canyon Avenue. We were given legs and feet for a reason, so use them and start parking in any available space throughout campus, regardless of the distance to your class. A brisk 15-minute walk won't kill you, it might actually do your body some good.

FIGHT FOR OUR TROOPS LIKE THEY FIGHT FOR OUR COUNTRY

"Don't ask, don't tell" prohibits gays from serving openly and honestly.

CAROLINA LEON
STAFF WRITER

Americans fight for what they believe in until the right decision is made, therefore the fight to end discrimination against homosexuals must continue.

On Sept. 22, the U.S. Senate failed to pass a bill that would have repealed the Don't Ask Don't Tell policy which prohibits the military from asking the sexual orientation of service members, but requires discharge of those who acknowledge being gay or participating in homosexual activity.

The policy was ruled unconstitutional on Sept. 9 by Federal Judge Virginia Phillips on the basis that it violates First and Fifth Amendment rights.

It's unfortunate to think that the wrong decision has been made once again. Taking a major step forward and then a step back has left many disappointed. DADT needs to be repealed and discrimination needs to end.

After enlisting in the military, sacrifices are made and a particular set of standards must be fulfilled. Making ethical decisions and honesty are expected. However ethics and honesty haven't been applied to sexual orientation. Military members should have no reason to hide their sexuality and they should not be forced to lie about it either.

Don't Ask Don't Tell implies that it's okay for homosexuals to fight for our country, but only if they lie to everyone. If they come out of the closet they are expected to pack their belongings because their service is no longer needed. Higher-ranking officials should judge military members by performance on the job instead of petty irrelevant details such as sexuality.

According to the Give a Damn campaign there are 65,000 gay, lesbian, and bisexual service members in the military and since DADT has been in effect, 13,000 members have been dismissed from duty.

Almost a year ago President Obama indicated his intentions of ending the policy but set no specific timeline.

"My expectation is that when you look back on these years you will look back and see a time when we put a stop against discrimination … whether in the office or the battlefield," said Obama.

Homosexual service members will continue to be discharged under the Obama administration, and until we make changes, we are repeating similar discrimination issues we have in the past. As Americans it is our duty to correct what is wrong. It's wrong to discharge service members based on their sexuality and we need to put a stop to discrimination.

THERE'S NO FIGHT LIKE A GIRL FIGHT

Girl fights aren't so cute when you forget the J-E-L-L-O.

CRISTINA SERRATO
STAFF WRITER

Every feral male, and surely a few females, have imagined two hot, scantily clad women wrestling and fighting in a pool of Jello Pudding at least once in their life. But what happens when you take Jello and scantily clad out of the equation?

You get girl fights. Real life, ugly, up-close, in-your-face, tooth-flying, nose-breaking, bloody madness. And it's not nearly as pretty as imagined.

Girl fights have become more frequent and increasingly more violent all over the United States, New Zealand and Australia in the last 10 years. In fact, in the port city of Porirua, New Zealand, women under 18 are responsible for more than 80 percent of violent crimes. Considering the fact that the city's population of 100,000 is 65 percent male, that's a high number.

"Bring It On" didn't do justice to the competitive nature of girls battling. In fact, that was just the "Disney" version of what really goes on.

Girl fights have become a popular violent pastime for girls of all ages and races. There are Web sites, blogs and social pages all dedicated to challenging another girl to fight. Using mockery, fat jokes, "yo momma" quips and racial slurs, the girls call each other out and demand a fight, sans law enforcement.

However, after a face gets sliced by a box cutter, or a friend throws a camera phone video on YouTube, you're in trouble. Somebody has to go to jail, especially since Oprah, Tyra and Jerry Springer are all off the air. And unless you're on MTV, you're not going to get famous or go without punishment. If you're the one who started it and got your butt handed to you, well that just adds insult to injury, since you will be taking your mug shot with a black eye.

So if you plan on starting a girl fight, you better be ready to take a few hits, realize the possibility of losing some hair or teeth and understand you could go to jail. However, if that doesn't stop you, you'd better be ready to take on a 110-pound spitfire who's trained in self-defense and have the bail bondsmen on speed dial.

To get you started on your way I can only offer one thing: Yo momma so stupid someone said, "It's so chilly outside," and she went and got a bowl. Use it wisely and if you see the 110-pound spitfire, run girl, run.

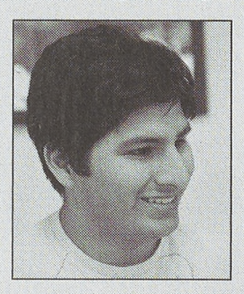
VALLEY VIEW | WHAT WOULD BE YOUR REACTION TO A GIRL FIGHT ON CAMPUS?

"My first reaction would probably be to stop it. Try to get in and stop them from fighting."

- IAN BABASIN
UNDECIDED

"I might grab a [breast]. I'd try not to, but there's an instinctual thing there that happens."

- SKY RICHARDSON
ART

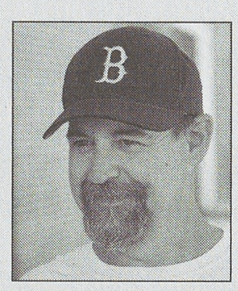


"I think that girls pretty much fight over anything. My best advice is that they should be more mature."

- ANDRE ALCAZAR
HISTORY

"I would watch it. It would be interesting. I've never seen a girl fight on campus or off campus."

- BERNICE RAMOS
GLOBAL STUDIES



"My mouth would probably be wide open. I would be amazed. I would probably watch."

- JOHN NETHERY
PSYCHOLOGY

PHOTOS BY VARUGHAN CHAPANIAN | VALLEY STAR

THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID …

TEXT IN THE CITY

It was shocking, it was bloody, it was beautiful, and it was all the result of texting while driving.

KELLY DAVIS

It's not so much cliché as it is cold hard fact. A recent Auto Club report stated that texting while driving is on the rise, again, and that young women are the worst offenders. While some might think *OMG* at the National Safety Council statisitc of 200,000 texting accidents occurring annually, it appears that certain Valley College students aren't the only ones who text on "occasion."

A few weeks ago, I opened one of those e-mails that urge everyone to forward it on to all their friends and loved ones. More often than not these "chain e-mails" just plain annoy me. But every once in a while, I open my e-mail and strike gold. The e-mail I got a few weeks ago was just that.

It opened with the back-story of the young man who was involved in a head-on collision because he was texting while driving. Then came the disclaimer, "DO NOT SCROLL DOWN IF YOU HAVE A WEAK STOMACH." I do not, and any time I read a disclaimer like that, I get consumed with excitement to keep scrolling.

If it's real and it's gory, I'm in. I love me some real-life autopsy photos. But this was even better. These were pictures of this young man's mid-sized SUV compacted to the size of a Smart car.

Then came the best part. The pictures of what the guy looked like after the crash. There was the shot of the waist up and then the shot of the waist down, and then the shot of his insides being strung out between the two.

When will society get it through their thick skulls that it's a life or death matter? Just ask Dr. Frank Ryan, the famed Beverly Hills plastic surgeon who recently plummeted to his death in Malibu when he drove his car right off the side of Pacific Coast Highway while texting. Now I'll have to find someone else who's willing to plasticize 10 parts of my body in one day. Maybe I'll call Heidi Montag and ask for a referral. But of course, she's probably too busy texting while driving, just like a certain Valley student, who clarified that she makes sure to "keep an eye out for the police" while texting behind the wheel. OMG. We're so glad you're watching *your* ass, but perhaps you could keep one of those eyes on the road.

So keep it up all you multitaskers, maybe your next tweet, which you can't seem to go from one stop light to the next without updating should read this, "BTW, this chick just gave me a dirty look for texting while I operate my assault rifle on wheels. TTYL." Or maybe you won't. Keep it up and you might end up like Dr. Ryan or that guy in the pictures, just a statistic that I'll be tempted to read about in an e-mail, while I'm driving. IMHO.

E-mail Kelly Davis at
k.davis@lavalleystar.com
Send general comments to
valleystar@lavalleystar.com

GOT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR?

Letters to the editor can be sent to:
editor@lavalleystar.com
or submitted online at
www.lavalleystar.com.
Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

LAVC Events

SEPTEMBER
Wednesday, 29th
6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Free Writing Center Workshop on How to Write Thesis Statements.
This workshop will help you write a thesis statement in your college papers. Remember to bring your ID card.
Humanities 100 - Free
For more information, contact the Writing Center at (818) 947-2810 or email at weigansm@lavc.edu.

Thursday, 30th
2 p.m. - 3p.m.
Free Writing Workshops on Paragraphs
This workshop will teach you how to write organized and well-developed paragraphs for your college papers.
Humanities 100 -Free
For more information call the Writing Center at (818) 947-2810 or email weigansm@lavc,edu

September 27th - October 1st
Support Team LAVC in the Lukemia & Lymphoma Society's LIght the Night Walk.
Team LAVC is raising money this year to fot the Light the Night Walk. It will be having a brownie sale, candy sale and coffee sale to raise money.
For more information or to join the team, please see Erline Ewing in Academic Affairs Administration Building Room 101.

OCTOBER
Saturday - Sunday 2nd - 3rd
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
American Kennel Club Dog Show at LAVC
Burbank Kennel Club All-Breed Dog Show.
Campus lawn between Art and Music Building
Contact: John Bradshaw at (323) 727-0163 or visit www.jdbradshaw.com.

! THINK TRANSFER

The Career/ Transfer Center is moving to the Student Services Building Annex and will re-open on Wednesday, Oct. 6th. For further information call the Career/ Transfer Center at (818) 947-2646 or come visit us at our new location.

SEPTEMBER

Thursday, 30th
Fall 2011 UC Transfer Admission Guarantees Due.
Apply at: www.uctransfer.universityofcalifornia.edu/tag.

OCTOBER

Friday, 1st
Fall 2011 UC Transfer Application Filing Period begins Oct. 1.
Apply at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply ***and*** *www.csumentor.edu.*

Wednesday, 6th
UC Riverside Rep
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Mount St. Mary's Rep
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Undecided Major/Career Workshop
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

PHANTOM OF THE VALLEY OPERA IS HERE

Free Concert Wednesdays brings opera classics and musical theater favorites to Valley College.

DAVID MOTTE
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

With the expensive ticket prices, lack of mainstream appeal, and generally pretentious audience associated with opera and musical theater, many college students are seldom exposed to the allure of these fine art forms. For this semester's second installment of Free Concert Wednesdays, the Valley College music department presented a rendering of songs from various operas and musicals.

Backed by professional pianist Greg Schreiner, Valley Music Professor Christian Nova and opera singer Leslie Dennis performed airs from well-known dramatic works on Wednesday in the Music Recital Hall. Amongst them were songs from Stephen Sondheim's "Follies," Mozart's "Don Giovanni," and Leonard Bernstein's "Candide."

Opening with "Rain on the Roof" from "Follies," the duo sheltered themselves from imaginary rain under an umbrella as Nova's baritone and Dennis' soprano complemented each other impeccably. It is quite impressive to witness the vocal range of opera and musical singers firsthand, and how easily their voices can fill a concert hall without any microphones. During "Willow Song" from Douglas Moore's "The Ballad of Baby Doe," Dennis' voice effortlessly reached the peak of high octaves. Had there been any windows in the room, they would have surely shattered.

Nova, who is also the weekly host of Free Concert Wednesdays, has previously performed in the U.S. National Tour of "Phantom of the Opera" as the masked title character himself and also appeared on Broadway in "Cyrano: The Musical." Dennis is a New York Metropolitan Opera regional finalist and currently sings with the Los Angeles Opera, having performed in more than 25 productions.

Of course, no performance combining opera and musical theatre would be complete without at least one song from Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Phantom of the Opera." Appropriately so, the duo performed three pieces from the famous musical, "Think of Me," "All I Ask of You," and "Music of the Night." Due to its title and setting, "Phantom of the Opera" is often misconceived as an opera when it is actually a musical.

"Glitter and Be Gay" from "Candide" wrapped up the afternoon performance before the duo took their final bows. The entire performance was an enjoyable introduction to opera and musical theatre for anyone unfamiliar (or even familiar) with the musical forms. Free concert Wednesdays are always educational and entertaining, and the best part is it's free. The next installment is Wednesday, September 29 and will feature an open rehearsal with the Kadima String Quartet, where students can take advantage of a unique opportunity to observe, ask questions and experience the process of a musical ensemble.

SAMSON UBA | VALLEY STAR
BEAT ME, BEAT ME - Professor Christian Nova and Leslie Dennis perform Mozart's "Batti, Batti."

THE NOHO ARTS CENTER BRINGS CULTURE TO THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

Theater and art junkies get their fix at the NoHo Arts Center seven days a week.

MICHAEL MKERCHYAN
STAFF WRITER

The NoHo Arts Center is truly a gem of the San Fernando Valley. This year, it is going into its seventh season of operation, and things are looking bright for this local landmark.

Artistic Director James Mellon is one of many people that help to enhance the center and make it what it is, a leading center of multi-cultural and trans-cultural artists. The producing director is Kevin Bailey. Taking the duty of managing director is Jonathan Zen, and the associate director is Gilmore Rizzo.

"The Community Redevelopment Agency calls us the heart of NoHo," said Mellon.

Mellon gave an overview of everything that makes the NoHo Arts Center what it is, a beautiful and priceless local landmark. At the center, there is a mix of musicals, original plays, world premieres, and west coast premieres. When the artistic director spoke of the thought that goes into the planning, production, and everything else at the center, he said "We did the musical 'Dorian' from the play called "The Picture of Dorian Grey." It had nudity, homosexuality, and religious undertones.

According to Mellon, one of the goals of the NoHo Arts Center is to "try and challenge the audience." When asked about one of the memorable productions that the center has done in the past, he said, "We did 'The Ghost and Mrs. Muir.' That's a classic. There's a book version, a movie, and a TV series. Nov. 26 through an undetermined date in December, the NoHo Arts Center will premiere a show called 'Yo Ho Ho, A Pirate's Christmas.'"

"It's very funny and touching. A group of directionally challenged pirates land on the North Pole and try to hijack Christmas," said Mellon.

The NoHo Arts Center opens every day around 11 a.m. Tickets for the plays and musicals cost around $25, while the price to look at pieces in the art gallery cost a bit less.

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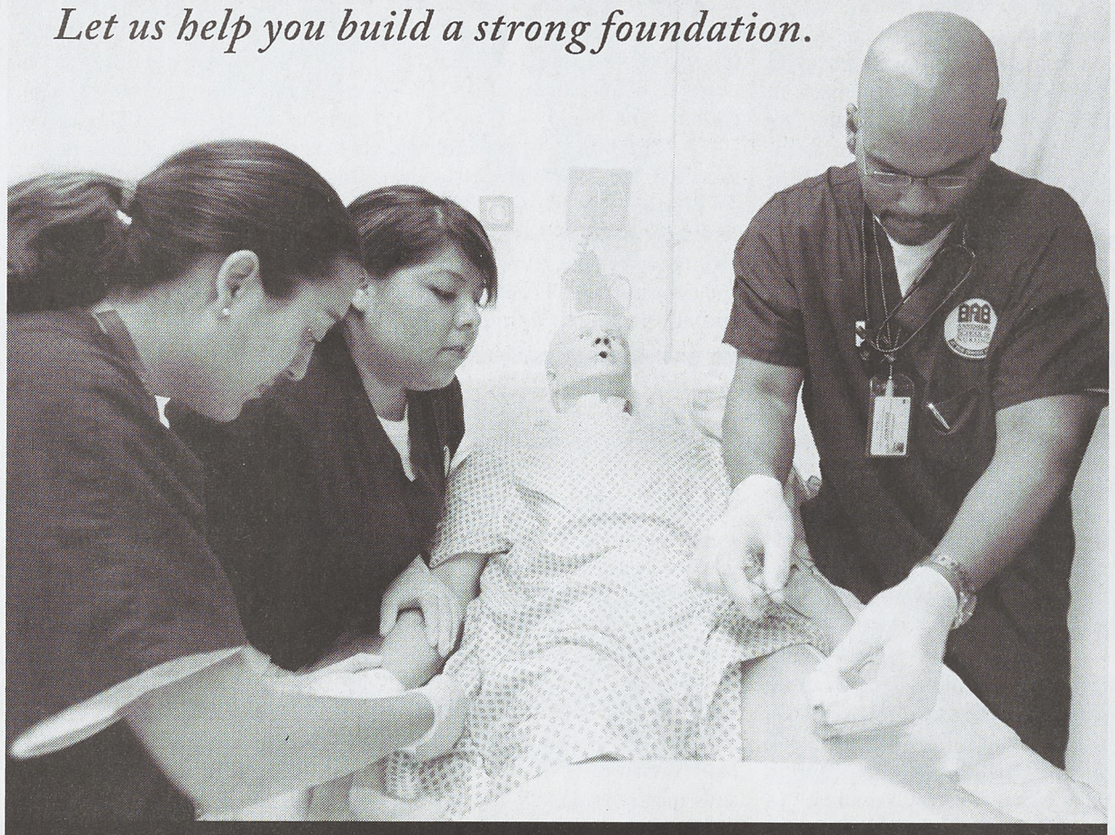

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SPIRITS IN THE MATERIAL WORLD

Oliver Stone's follow up to the seminal "Wall Street" has equal shock and awe.

J.P. SPENCE
MANAGING EDITOR

It takes some objectivity to understand how good "Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps" is and simple powers of deduction to realize how much better it could have been.

Michael Douglas effortlessly reprises the role of antihero, ex-con investor Gordon Gekko. His daughter Winnie (Carey Mulligan) happens to be engaged to up and coming propriety trader Jacob Moore (Shia LaBeouf). Set against the backdrop of the 2008 financial crisis and following the death of his mentor Lewis Zabel (Frank Langella), Moore looks for vengeance with his eyes set on Bretton James (Josh Brolin).

Douglas is in vintage form as Gekko. It's nice to see his character have layers of parent and mentor in addition to perfected scumbag. Credit to LaBeouf for attempting a project that has a deeper emotional resonance than films involving talking cars and crystal skulls. Some of his scenes appear hit or miss but that's only because he's always the weak link. That's oddly not an insult considering he's consistently going toe to toe with the Douglas, Mulligan, Brolin, or Langella. Brolin is excellent in nearly everything he's in and there is no exception in this film. While the character at times can be the basic villain/hedge fund manager prototype you'd expect, Brolin adds gusto and smarm that breathes life into the staler dialogue.

Director Oliver Stone and screenwriters Allan Loeb and Stephen Schiff do a thoughtful and meticulous job of crafting a story that make Gekko a relevant character again. "Money Never Sleeps" is an able bookend to its predecessor, "Wall Street." It's a great example of how times have changed. What used to be "Blue Horse Shoe loves Endicott Steel" for capital gain has been replaced by arbitrage and market speculation. Even though technology and business bubbles have changed, grudges don't evolve. Behind the veneer of designer suits, computer screens, and gaudy high rises, there's plenty of blood on the ground. Stone's strongest move is showing the disparity between old-world politics and new-world ethics proving that there will always be ghosts in the digital age.

Unfortunately, that's when things go off the rails. While Stone has a master stroke for disparity, his admonitions of the evil that money brings and that time is the greatest asset of all seem contrived. The message is better conveyed in the actions of the characters rather than Gekko saying time is important and the immediately betraying the concept.

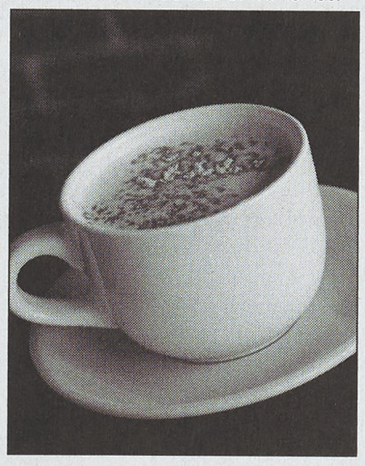
Ultimately Stone is right in saying that money never sleeps but obviously he's forgotten that is also fixes everything.

COURTESTY OF HARRYALLEN.INFO

VARUGHAN CHAPANIAN | VALLEY STAR

TOP PHOTO - The chai tea latte is a staple at the Sherman Oaks cafe.
BOTTOM PHOTO - Enjoy this French pancake with strawberries or bananas.

WHAT YOU CRAVE



Crave Café located in the center of the Valley has choices for any time of the day.

COURTNEY BASSLER
STAFF WRITER

After dealing with the hassle of trying to find a decent parking space on Ventura Boulevard, the idea of getting a chai tea latte and a crêpe sounds like the way to go. While entering Crave Café, with its brick walls, tables for two and couches, it would seem that one has escaped to an urban café rather than being in the heart of The Valley. Crave Café located at the crossing of Ventura and Van Nuys Boulevards is a 24-hour eatery that politely says, "Come and stay awhile."

The line inside Crave may seem never-ending, but it goes quickly, and figuring out what one wants could take a while with the many options of cold and hot beverages, breakfast items, crêpes, salads, soups, paninis, and desserts. At times, it seems crowded with students studying with their laptops and friends catching up with a cup of coffee.

Like most cafés, the coffee comes at the right temperature, but the chai tea latte is what it's really all about. The combination of the spice of the chai, the froth of the warm milk, and the topping of cinnamon sugar could bring one back to their favorite wintertime memory. When looking around the room there is one item that is bound to be at least on two of the tables: the crêpe. The moment that the strawberry crêpe hits the mouth, it's like one has been transported to Paris, not to mention that the sweetness of the Nutella and the strawberries is in harmony with the light balance of this French pancake.

Crave's paninis are the just the right size, and the aromas that resonate at the side of cucumber, tomato, lettuce and vinaigrette that comes with the pressed sandwich could make a rabbit jealous. The salads seem like a bottomless pit that could easily feed three people, and the Earth salad has a great team of supporting actors with corn, four different types of beans playing the sweet role, while the vinaigrette and black olives act as the tart characters.

The service at Crave Café is very attentive and many of the employees are always up for a good conversation. The prices are fairly affordable with most of them being less than $10, but don't be surprised if staying for a long time leads to the idea of getting a little something else. Crave is a place that lives up to its name and being open 24 hours everyday, it's no wonder this place is always busy.

Crave Café is located at 14504 Ventura Boulevard in Sherman Oaks. It's open 24 hours, except on Sunday the hours are midnight to 6 a.m., and they open again at 8 a.m. Monday.

LOS ANGELES HAS GOT IT ON LOCK

West Coast put your hands up, because the College Destinations Index has ranked Los Angeles the seventh best location to get an education.

COURTNEY BASSLER
STAFF WRITER

When you tell someone you're from Los Angeles or learning here, most automatically they think of the great sports teams or even Hollywood stars. But now, fellow students in the City of Angels, there's one more thing that you can be proud of: being in one of the top ten metropolitan cities to learn in.

Los Angeles was voted number seven out of 15 major U.S. cities from the College Destinations Index, published by the American Institute for Economic Research, and schooled – what's this mean? when it came to arts and leisure opportunities. The fact that LA made it into the top ten cities to learn isn't that surprising.

Second-year student Jeni Brewer who moved from Washington D.C. seems to agree that LA is in the top ten places to learn. She came here because of future opportunities.

"I came to Los Angeles because it had the best internships to offer for what I want to go into, which is film," said Brewer.

The CDI looked at over 200 metropolitan areas with student populations with at least 15,000 students to determine the best college cities.

According to the American Institute for Economic Research, some the following things were analyzed for the CDI: the population percent of 25- to 34-year-olds with college degrees, the number of cultural and entertainment values per 100,000 residents, percentage of residents who are 16 years or older who commute on foot, bicycle or public transportation, and percentage of students working in the arts, science, and management fields.

Compared to the 14 other locations, LA seemed to be average in the population percentage of 25- to 34-year-olds with college degrees, earning potential, and modes of transportation other than cars.

There were some standings in which LA did better than average, such as the number of students in the area, and exceptionally well in "Arts and Leisure" with 91.2 percent—also not surprising. With places such as the Getty Center, MOCA and the Los Angeles Public Library housing over 60 locations it's no shock that students in Los Angeles are inspired to learn.

So have a little pride people, because Los Angeles is the place to learn.

COURTESY OF VISITINGDC.COM

TWO CENTS FROM SPENCE

CALLING ALL DUNGEON MASTERS

Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is in no *Rush* to induct classic rock band.

J.P. SPENCE

Leave it to Stephen Colbert to ask the question everyone wants to hear.

In a 2007 interview with the iconic rock band Rush, Colbert asked on his TV Show, "…with all the people you've influenced and millions of records you've sold over the years, you guys still aren't in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Have you guys thought of naming your next album 'That's Bull****'?"

Well it appears that the running of the bull will last for yet another year as Rush was left off the list of nominees for the 2011 induction ceremony.

Along with KISS, no other band has been so publicly loved yet critically panned. The stat sheet on Rush shows 24 gold records, 14 platinum, and 3 multi-platinum with over 25 million records sold worldwide. Besides outselling every nominee, their musical contribution far outweighs any of them. Along with Pink Floyd, Yes, and Genesis, Rush is the other band that forms the quintessential Mt. Rushmore of progressive rock. Rush's special contribution is they were the first to combine the expansive rhythm sections of progressive rock with the heavy metal thunder of Black Sabbath and Led Zeppelin.

Without Rush, there wouldn't be any Nine Inch Nails, Smashing Pumpkins, Dream Theater, Tenacious D, Tool, Mars Volta, Foo Fighters, Megadeth, or Metallica; all bands who cited the Canadian band as seminal influences.

Bassist Geddy Lee, guitarist Alex Lifeson, and drummer Neil Peart are all considered to be masters of their craft individually yet they get no love from critics collectively.

Think about their cultural impact. You cannot have any proper geek archetype of computer, sci-fi, or fantasy persuasion without rocking the Rush. The initial reason for the creation of dungeons and dragons was for Rush fans to get together and argue which was the better bootleg tape, Cobo Hall in '74 or Nassau Coliseum in '76. There is no wannabe Jedi Master worth his weight in midi chlorians that doesn't have a Rush 2112 t-shirt.

Even from a rock perspective. The selection had to be kidding nominating Bon Jovi and J. Geils Band. Not necessarily over Rush but in general.

I appeal to any fan of rock and roll, do you truly want songs like "Centerfold" and "Living on a Prayer" to rub elbows with the The Beatles, The Stones, or The Who?

If by some unforeseen long shot that Jann S. Wener of Rolling Stone is reading this, please embrace your inner geekdom and induct Rush immediately into the Hall of Fame before the dungeon masters unite.

J.P. Spence at
j.spence@lavalleystar.com
Send general comments to
valleystar@lavalleystar.com

WELCOME TO A NEW GALAXY

Samsung's Galaxy Tab gives Apple's iPad a run for it's money.

VINCE DORIN
STAFF WRITER

The iPod touch may not be the best invention yet. The Samsung Galaxy Tab is coming to the US and while it may look like the new Apple iPad, it is two inches smaller and has more capabilities than its competition.

The most notable difference between the iPad and the Galaxy Tab is the video conferencing, which immediately makes the tab an upgrade over the iPad. Add in a camera with high definition capacity and the score is already 2-0 Samsung. People may complain that bigger screen could lead to the Tab being unwieldy but the widescreen formatting prevents any video cropping. With Wi-Fi and Bluetooth capabilities along with a longer battery, the Tab can last up to seven hours of playtime. The Galaxy Tab also differs from the iPad due to this product supports the latest Adobe Flash Player, and it also has HD capabilities.

"I saw the product trailer once and I thought it was so cool," stated Jaime Martinez, third year student at Valley College. "I am thinking about considering the Galaxy Tab when I get to upgrade my phone. My only concern is that it seems too big."

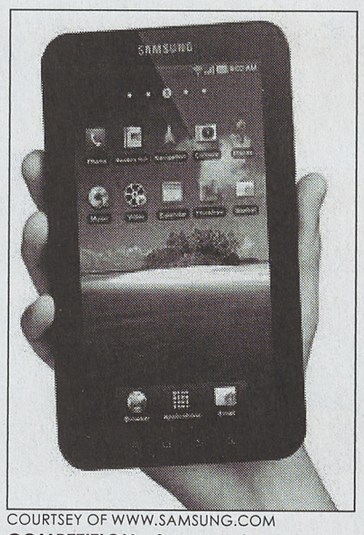
There are also apps to be downloaded as well. You can find it on the Android Marketplace. The phone will run on 3G network. According to an article in the Wall Street Journal, Samsung has already made a deal with Verizon, Sprint, T-Mobile and AT&T for the Galaxy Tab to be available making it more accessible for consumers to buy with more choices for the company they want to have it in. It will be released in the US market late October or early November of this year.

Some people still prefer brand loyalty.

"I heard about it, but it just sounds like another iPhone or iPad," Michael Karapetian, a freshman at Valley. "It's not something I want to waste my money on. I would rather buy the iPhone, its more popular and more people are familiar with it, that just make it seems more reliable."

Although the Galaxy Tab's size is problematic for some, it's also capable of doing more than its competition. The Galaxy Tab's camera can be used as a fast research tool. By automatically searching an image of a landmark or artwork it lets you know the content's description or history. A feature that is definitely helpful for students on the go. It also has SD card capabilities, making it easier for the consumer to buy how much memory they want.

The iPad may not be a netbook killer but the Samsung Galaxy Tab certainly is.



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COMPETITION - Samsung's new Galaxy Tab.

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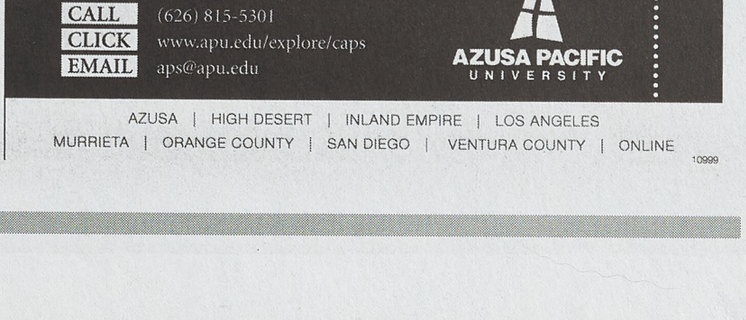

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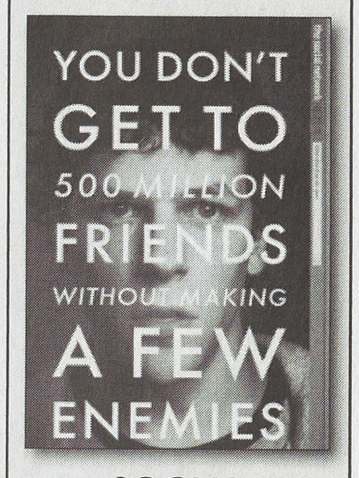
THE MOVIES

OPENING THIS WEEKEND



SOCIAL NETWORK

JESSE EISENBERG
ROONEY MARA
JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE

TOP 5 BOX OFFICE:

- *Wall Street: $19M+*
- *Legend of the Guardians: $16.3M+*
- *The Town: $16M+*
- *Easy A: $10.7M+*
- *You Again: $8.3M+*

MEDIA RELEASES

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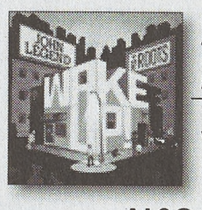
IRON MAN 2

ALSO AVAILABLE:
- *Get Him to the Greek*
- *Coco Chanel & Igor Stavinsky*
- *Babies*
- *Frozen*

SONGS TOP DOWNLOADS



THE ROOTS
Wake Up!

ALSO:
- *Maroon 5 - Hands All Over*
- *Serj Tankian - Imperfect Harmonies*
- *Maximum Balloon - Maximum Balloon*
- *S**t Robot - From the Cradle to the Rave*

CONCERTS & THEATRE

- *UB40: Oct. 1*
  Fox Performing Arts Center
- *Tom Petty and ZZ Top: Oct. 2*
  Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre
- *Pato Banton: Oct. 2*
  Galaxy Theatre
- *Belle & Sebastian: Oct. 3*
  Hollywood Palladium
- *Van Morrison: Oct. 5*
  Greek Theatre
- *Maroon 5: Oct. 5*
  Santa Barbara Bowl
- *Arcade Fire: Oct. 7*
  Shrine Auditorium

RICARDO VARELA | VALLEY STAR

BATTLING- Donte Gilmer makes the catch but is stopped by Jerek Davis at the line of scrimmage Saturday night.

MONARCHS DEFEAT OLYMPIANS

Valley College defeated San Diego Mesa on Saturday, 28-20.

JOSHUA LAWRENCE
STAFF WRITER

The Valley College Monarchs came out on top Saturday, due to the return of quarterback Dan Owen. The team won 28-20, against the San Diego Mesa Olympians. Owen started slow but found his rhythm as the game progressed.

"We came out slow. I take responsibility for that. It was my first game back from my concussion and it took me until the second half to fully mature in the game," Owen said. "We were really able to pick it up in the second half."

Owen had his first touchdown pass with 9:09 left in the second quarter with an 86-yard pass to wide receiver Donte Gilmer, giving the Monarchs a 7-0 lead. Owen ended the game with 214 yards passing and 69 yards rushing.

The Olympians matched touchdowns in the second quarter when quarterback Kyle Christian connected with wide receiver Evan McFadden for a nine-yard catch in the end zone. However, they failed to convert their extra point due to a block by Valley defensive back, Reggie Luckett. The Monarchs led going into the half, 7-6.

As the second half got under way the Monarchs had to play without starting defensive back, Nick Cook. He suffered a contusion on his lower left leg half way through the second quarter. The injury sidelined him for the rest of the game and the length of his absence is unknown at the moment, according to Athletic Trainer Dennis Mestas.

After Olympian defensive back Phillip Fowler blocked a Monarch punt, San Diego Mesa scored on a 14-yard run by Steven Okidi, giving the Olympians the lead, 13-7.

The Owen Gilmer duo connected again on a 49-yard touchdown pass late in the third quarter, putting Valley back on top, 14-13.

Five minutes into the fourth quarter, the Monarchs were able to add to their one-point lead when Morey Croson, usually a wide receiver, threw a dangerous pass off his back foot right into the hands of the open tight end, Marquel Henderson. With the score at 21-13 in Valley's favor, running back Germi Morrison added another touchdown with a 36-yard run, widening the lead to 15.

Steven Okidi, of the Olympians, had one more burst left in the tank with 3:43 remaining in the fourth quarter on a 15-yard touchdown run, putting San Diego within striking distance.

On the ensuing kickoff, the Olympians relied on their defense, opting not to go for the onside kick. The risk paid off as the Monarchs were unable to convert a first down. When San Diego recovered the ball after a Monarch punt, they went four and out with four straight incomplete passes, giving the ball back to the Monarchs with 1:22 left in the game. After three running plays, the time expired and the game was over.

"I am happy we won," said Coach Jim Fenwick, "I think we can play better, but we are young and have a lot of injured players on our team. We have the ability to be very good this year."

The Monarchs next game will be at Glendale against the Vaqueros. Kickoff is scheduled for 6 p.m Saturday.

Dance Team Coach Shares Her Enthusiasm

Rachel Paul has been coaching at Valley College for three years now, but also inspires her dancers.

COURTNEY BASSLER
STAFF WRITER

Coach Rachel Paul of the Monarch Spirit Dance team realized her passion for dance after her first year of college and has never looked back.

Paul has been a three-year member of the Monarch community and has made her mark as dance coach.

Coaching dance is now a career for Paul. At the age of 3, she could not keep her eyes off a dance studio she passed on the way to the grocery store, and she has been dancing ever since.

At the University of California, Los Angeles, Paul was a member of the dance team also serving as captain. After graduating, she interned at 20th Century Fox studios, where she realized that she missed dancing and quit her internship.

"I had no real plan; all I really knew is that I wanted to dance," Paul said.

Paul's plan was to put together her own dance company and a show post-internship. A UCLA advisor who happened to see Paul's show urged her to coach the UCLA dance team. She became dance coach in 2002, and later the varsity cheer coach at Notre Dame High School. She worked at UCLA for six years and received her master's degree from Cal State Long Beach. In 2007 she became the cheer coach at Valley, splitting her time between Notre Dame and Valley.

"She absolutely loves what she does," Athletic Director Diedra Stark said. "Every time her kids perform, she can't wait for that day … I think her students feel that."

And her students definitely do.

"She's very positive and never gives any negative vibes," said dance team member, Jenn Padilla.

Paul's training as a coach at UCLA and currently at Notre Dame is beneficial not only to her but also to her students as they transition from high school to a community college.

"She treats us like adults and not like high school kids," said Captain Mikaela David.

Though Paul is not full time, and has many to coach, she makes sure that each dance team member receives attention. The idea of her being at Valley and touching more lives resonates.

"I would love to have her full time as an instructor here … for our dance program and for the cheer program," said Stark.

STAY OUT OF THE LIMEIGHT

The light of small screen can be harsh.

CRISTINA SERRATO
STAFF WRITER

Sports and reality TV are two bad American addictions, so when sports teamed up with reality TV, America was in for a good fix.

However, Americans might be overdosing on reality TV. "I hate reality TV, so I won't watch it," said Valley student Rocio Rodriguez. "I think it's all dumb." Terrell Owens is famous not only for his talent on the football field but also for his "outsized personality."

When he and bestie Chad Ochocinco announced that they each had a new VH1 show in early 2009 the fans were excited. Fast forward to a year later: Owens has a second season in the works, but he seems to have lost some of his appeal to those in the athletic world. According to recent E-poll results issued in a September 16 article for Forbes Online, his popularity is down 47 percent.

"I think that it ruins their careers. People harass them and follow them around, then the fans lose interest," said Valley student Diana Diaz. "It can be better if you keep your life a mystery if you're famous.

Owens is on his fifth team since he began his career in 1996.

In 2004 he signed a $49 million contract with the Philadelphia Eagles, which was ended in two short years. Now according to NBC Philadelphia, Owens is one of the top 10 hated people in Philly. According to MKrob.com Owens also holds the title as the second most hated athlete in Dallas, where he used to play for the Cowboys. This year he has signed a two-year $2 million contract with the Cincinnati Bengal's for the 2010-2012 seasons.

"They're about gettin' their paper. Who cares if Owens is doing sports or whatever, he got more money than us," said Panorama City resident John Lanserg.

Perhaps Owens is a genius, weaning his way from football star to broadcast analyst one arrogant comment at a time. In fact, he will soon be hosting a 30-minute talk show with his bestie called "T.Ocho" on the sports network Versus. The show will encourage the two to play off each other's bad attitudes and big personalities.

READ THE REST ONLINE AT LAVALLEYSTAR.COM

SWIMMING TOWARD VICTORY

The men's water polo team is confident in making a comeback.

NARINE PETROSYAN
STAFF WRITER

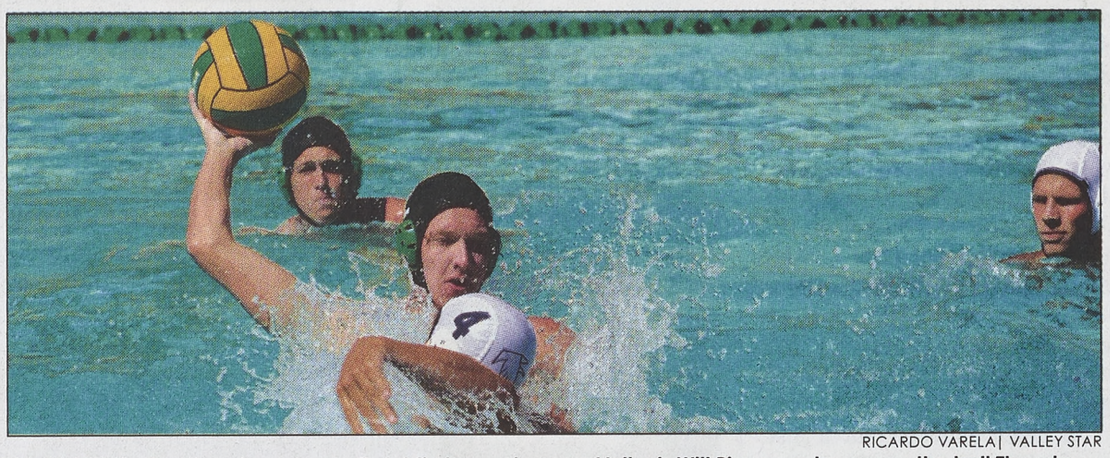
When most people hear the word sports, they think football, basketball or baseball. Many don't know the intense sport of water polo.

These guys are constantly moving their legs for 32 minutes in nine feet of water, muscling each other for position and rise up into the air like they're jumping off a trampoline to shoot and block shots. The Valley College men's water polo team does just that and more.

The team consists of seven players, one being the goalkeeper, whose goal is to throw the ball into the opposing team's net. There are four quarters, which consist of five to seven minutes. There is a two-minute break between, and each team has two one-minute time-outs. Players cannot touch the bottom of the pool or hang on the side anytime during the game. Teamwork is key.

"They are a young team, in the pool all day, motivated to get better," says Athletic Director Deidra Stark.

With two-a-day practices starting at 6 a.m., these Western State Conference members are dedicating a lot of time and effort. Coached by former Division One coach Jim McMillan, there will definitely be no fish out of the water on this team. McMillan is a former Pepperdine University alumnus, and once helped defeat USC for a national championships. He has been coaching at Valley since 2005." He is highly respected by his players" says Sports Information Director Dale Beck.



RICARDO VARELA| VALLEY STAR

COMPETITION - Cerritos player Isaac Ogloblin bears down on Valley's Will Pinney as he passes the ball Thursday.

Along with twice a week games, they also have tournaments on the weekends, in which they spend all day competing with different teams around the district. " I love it, everyone is so cool" says freshman Will Pinney.

So far they have a 4 to 6 win-loss record and are looking to raise it within the next few games. With a 19-6 victory this past Saturday, these guys are swimming toward success, juggling both practice, competitions, and a 2.0 GPA at school.

"Come to our games!" says Pinney.

ANALYZE THIS

PURE BLISS FOR THE SPORTS FAN

With football in full swing, baseball approaching playoffs, and basketball nearing pre-season.... does it get any better?

LUCAS THOMPSON

Cue the Christmas music. It's the most won-der- ful time of the year. Sunday NFL tickets are selling, the Jets fans are yelling and you have plenty of excuses to drink beer. It's the most won-der-ful time of the year.

But really, let's get serious. For all avid sports addicts, fantasy league junkies, gamblers, beer drinkers, or anyone who has ever used the line, "but honey, I'm watching the game," this is truly the most wonderful time of the year.

Lebron is in Miami, Shaquille is in Boston, and Kobe is still cuddling his fifth NBA championship title … how's that MVP award looking now, King James?

Little has changed in the Laker's organization during the off-season. The usual suspects are back once again in Fisher, Bryant and Gasol. Bynum is, shockingly, injured again and will be out for training camp and the start of the season due to an off-season knee surgery. The concern of Bynum being out is once again worrying Lakers fans across the country, but rest assured Jack Nicholson will still have his season tickets next to the Lakers bench.

On the other side of town, Joe Torre has officially announced that he will step down as the Dodgers' manager after this season. Torre has been with the "Blue Crew" for the past three years and led the team to two consecutive National League Championship series in 2008 and 2009, according to HomeTownStation.com. His replacement, Don Mattingly, looks about as confident in taking over the position as Alex Rodriguez in his press conference where he explained, "Neither of us knew how to use it properly," Rodriguez said of the injections him and his cousin administered to each other. "It was pretty evident we didn't know what were doing."

According to BleacherReport.com, Frank McCourt will soon settle with his wife Jamie for a seven-figure dollar amount. Manny left the Dodger organization mid-season, and it looks like most of the Dodgers capital to sign any new talent will soon follow. McCourt has been recorded several times in saying that he has no intentions of selling the Dodger franchise, but offered his feelings of remorse in the lengthy, detailed and heartfelt comment of, "I'm sorry."

Drew Brees is still managing to throw a touchdown pass for every "Whoooop" Chris Berman proclaims on NFL live, the Raiders, though showing signs of hope, still found a way to lose against the Arizona Cardinals Sunday, and Mark Sanchez and the Jets proved just how "Hard Knocks" they really are with big wins against the New England Patriots and Miami Dolphins.

"I just think it starts with Mark," Jets Head Coach Rex Ryan said in a recent article in the New York Daily News. "I think without question he's got a great grasp of our offense."

Back to the music: With all the team meetings, plenty of stadium seating, and baseball playoffs for all. It's the most wonderful time of the year.

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